

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04048 231002Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 EUR-12 /078 W

----- 003872

R 230850Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3495

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 4048

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EG, US

SUBJECT: EGYPT'S NEW GOVERNMENT: SPECULATION CONTINUES

REF: CAIRO 3934 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. MALICIOUS RUMOR PERSISTS THAT NEW SALIM CABINET WAS "MADE IN AMERICA". RUMOR'S SOURCE NOW APPEARS TO BE FALLEN MEMBERS OF HEGAZI CABINET, IF NOT HEGAZI HIMSELF. SPECULATION ON MUBARAK'S PROMOTION TO VP HAS NOW TURNED TO STORIES THAT HE WAS PLACED CLOSE TO PRESIDENT AT INSISTENCE OF DISSATISFIED EGYPTIAN MILITARY. RESIGNATION OF (PRESUMABLY) FORMER VP SHAF'I HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE DEFINITE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR WHEN ANY GOVERNMENT HAS CLOSE US TIES, RUMORS THAT SALIM CABINET WAS AMERICAN-MADE BEGAN MAKING ROUNDS OF LOCAL CIRCLES SHORTLY AFTER NEW CABINET WAS FORMED.

"EVIDENCE" BEING BANDIED ABOUT IS, FIRST, PROMOTION TO DEP PRIMIN OF FAHMY, GOE'S CHIEF ADVOCATE OF US STEP-BY-STEP POLICY, DESPITE RECENT FAILURE OF KISSINGER SHUTTLE. SECOND ITEM IS PROMOTION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAIRO 04048 231002Z

OF MAMDUH SALIM FROM MININT TO PRIMIN, WHICH PURPORTEDLY

OCCURRED BECAUSE AMERICANS ALWAYS PREFER POLICEMEN, PARTICULARLY TOUGH ONES LIKE SALIM WHO MOVED AGAINST EXTREMISTS AND COMMUNISTS. THIS "EVIDENCE" ALONE DOES NOT SEEM SUFFICIENT TO KEEP AMERICAN-CABINET RUMOR ALIVE, MAKING MORE PLAUSIBLE THE GRADUALLY MORE FREQUENT SUGGESTION THAT FALLEN MEMBERS OF HEGAZI CABINET ARE ITS SOURCE. HEGAZI ET AL CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE EXPECTED TO CONCEDE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR INABILITY TO COPE WITH GOE'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS WAS CAUSE OF THEIR REMOVAL, LEAVING "OUTSIDE INFLUENCE" STORY MOST ATTRACTIVE ONE FOR THEM TO PUSH.

2. CAIRO OBSERVERS CONTINUE TO CAST ABOUT IN SEARCH OF SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION FOR MUBARAK'S ELEVATION TO VICE PRESIDENCY. FONMIN FAHMY'S ANALYSIS (REFTEL), TO WHICH WE SUBSCRIBED, IS BUT ONE OF SEVERAL BEING PASSED AROUND. OTHERS INCLUDE SPECULATION THAT MILITARY PRESENTED SADAT WITH SOMETHING AKIN TO ULTIMATUM, INSISTING THAT THEY HAVE SOMEONE IN POSITION OF POWER TO BALANCE THAT OF POLICE WITH FORMER MININT AS PRIMIN. SIMILAR STORY HAS IT THAT MILITARY WAS DISSATISFIED WITH SADAT'S POLICIES AND DEMANDED MUBARAK'S PROMOTION SO AS TO PLACE ITS WATCHDOG CLOSE TO PRESIDENT. THESE STORIES APPEAR TO BE LIBYAN INSPIRED AND PEDDLED.

3. SURPRISINGLY EXTENSIVE SPECULATION REGARDING MUBARAK'S PROMOTION AND SUPPOSEDLY CONCOMITANT RISE TO POWER SEEMS TO HAVE ARISEN OVER WIDESPREAD, BUT NEVERTHELESS ERRONEOUS, ASSUMPTION THAT VP (RATHER THAN SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY) CONSTITUTIONALLY SUCCEEDS TO PRESIDENCY. VICE PRESIDENCY IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN LARGELY CEREMONIAL, ALTHOUGH SADAT NOW SEEMS TO BE RESHAPING POST WITH HIS INVOLVEMENT OF MUBARAK IN MORE OF GOVERNMENT'S SUBSTANCE.

4. FROM TIME OF SALIM'S APPOINTMENT LAST WEEK AS PRIMIN, EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS CARRIED SERIES OF SMALL ITEMS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO COUNTERACT HIS POLICEMAN IMAGE BY CASTING HIM AS PRINCIPLED DEMOCRATIC LEADER. READERS ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, REMINDED THAT SALIM WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN LIBERALIZING POLICIES GOVERNING EGYPTIANS' TRAVEL AND WORK ABROAD, INFORMED THAT HE REFUSED ALLOW ANY ARRESTS DURING OCTOBER WAR AND TOLD OF HIS SEVERAL POSTS AND TEMPORARY MISSIONS OUTSIDE REALM OF POLICE WORK.

5. THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHAFI'I IS NO LONGER VICE PRESIDENT, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID DRAWING ATTENTION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAIRO 04048 231002Z

OUSTER OF LAST OF ORIGINAL RCC MEMBERS. FACT IS WIDELY KNOWN, HOWEVER, AND SHAFI'I IS NOT HIDING FACT THAT HE HAS LOST HIS JOB. HE NO LONGER APPEARS AT HIS FORMER OFFICE.
EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, ALLEGATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO04048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750142-0540
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750422/aaaaatys.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAIRO 3934
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT'S NEW GOVERNMENT: SPECULATION CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006